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Nation's Restaurant News

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HEADLINE: NRA backs report questioning EPA **smoking** study.National Restaurant Association; Brief Article

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The National Restaurant Association applauded a recent report by the **Congressional Research Service** that questions the findings of the 1993 Environmental Protection Agency report labeling secondhand **smoke** as a dangerous carcinogen.

Citing several sources of uncertainty affecting the EPA study, the nonpartisan adjunct of Congress said more data were needed before concluding that workers exposed to secondhand **smoke** would be at increased risk for lung cancer.

The report's findings are significant in influencing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's efforts to promulgate indoor-air quality regulations that would ban **smoking** in all workplaces based on the EPA's earlier findings.

"We recognize that no risk analysis will ever satisfy the proponents on either. side of this issue," NRA president Ralph O. Brennan said. "However, without scientific research the restaurant industry can take no position on the question of safety or hazard of environmental tobacco **smoke**!."

In August 1994 the NRA filed 25 pages of comments with OSHA, pointing out that no scientific consensus existed on the effects of secondhand **smoke**, and that market forces - not government - should dictate where **smoking** is allowed and where it is banned.

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